

# Pregnancy Intention and Postpartum Contraception Use Among Mississippi Women in 2021

## About PRAMS

- The **Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)** is an ongoing, population-based surveillance program sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH).
- PRAMS participants are randomly selected between 2 and 6 months **postpartum**.
- This study analyzed Mississippi PRAMS data from 886 women who had a live birth in 2021 in Mississippi to assess **unintended pregnancy** and **postpartum contraceptive use**.

## About Pregnancy Intention and Contraception

- Each year, an estimated **45% of pregnancies** in the United States are **unintended**.
- Unintended pregnancies have a substantial impact on public health as they contribute to **adverse maternal and child outcomes**.
- Women with unintended pregnancies have a **higher rate of late prenatal care**, using **alcohol and drugs** during pregnancy, postpartum **depression**, and higher rates of adverse birth outcomes such as **preterm birth**.
- **Contraception** is one of the most important tools for preventing unintended pregnancies and short interpregnancy intervals.

## Definitions

- In this report, **pregnancy intention** was defined using the PRAMS question, *“Thinking back to just before you got pregnant with your new baby, how did you feel about becoming pregnant?”*
  - **Intended pregnancy** responses: “I wanted to be pregnant sooner” or “I wanted to be pregnant then”
  - **Unintended pregnancy** responses: “I wanted to be pregnant later” or “I did not want to be pregnant then or at any time in the future”
  - **Unsure** response: “I was not sure what I wanted”
- In this report, estimates for women who reported their race to be anything other than White or Black are suppressed due to low response.
- The difference between two estimates is considered **statistically significant** (also stated as “significantly higher/lower” or “significant” in this fact sheet) if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

## Pregnancy Intention and Postpartum Contraception in Mississippi in 2021

Figure 1. Pregnancy Intention Among Women in MS, 2021

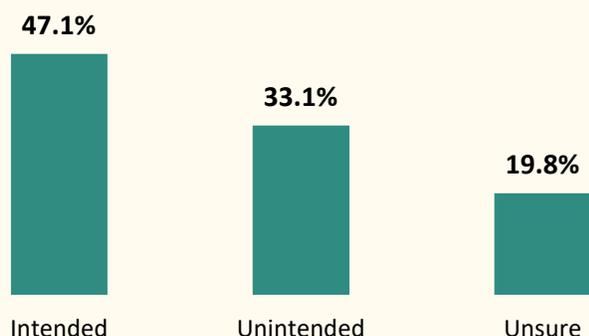
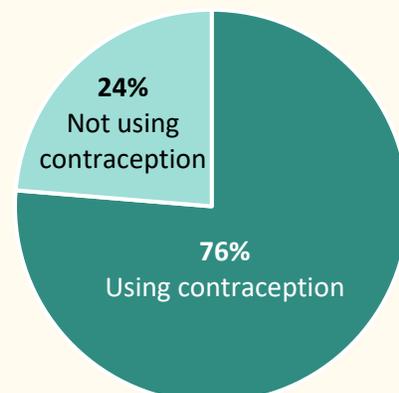


Figure 2. Postpartum Contraception Use Among Women in MS, 2021

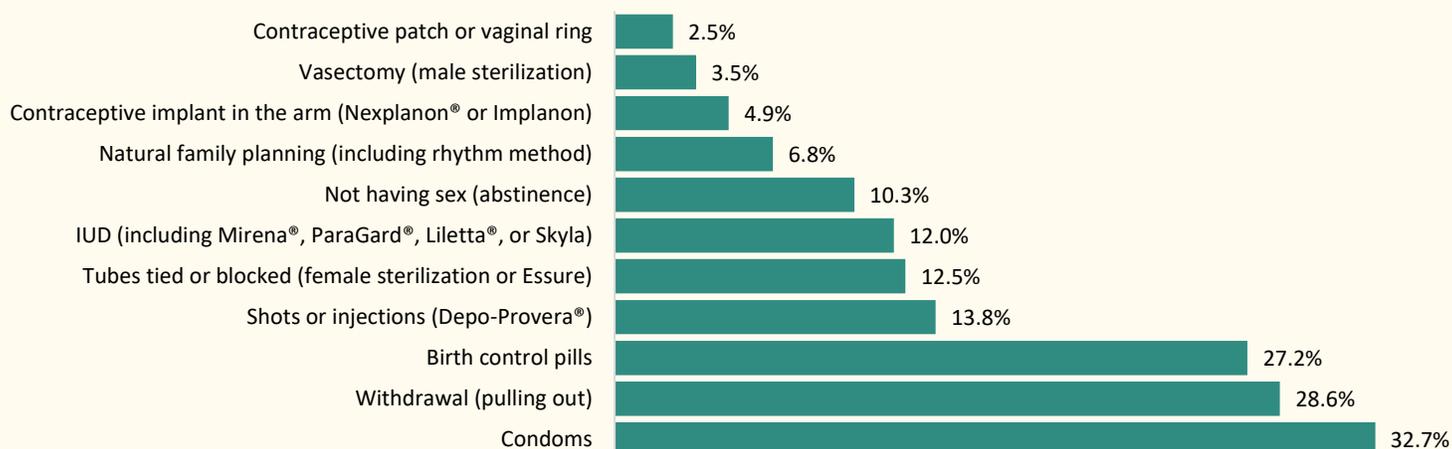


**Approximately 1 out of 3 women reported unintended pregnancy (Figure 1), and 3 out of 4 women reported postpartum birth control (Figure 2).**

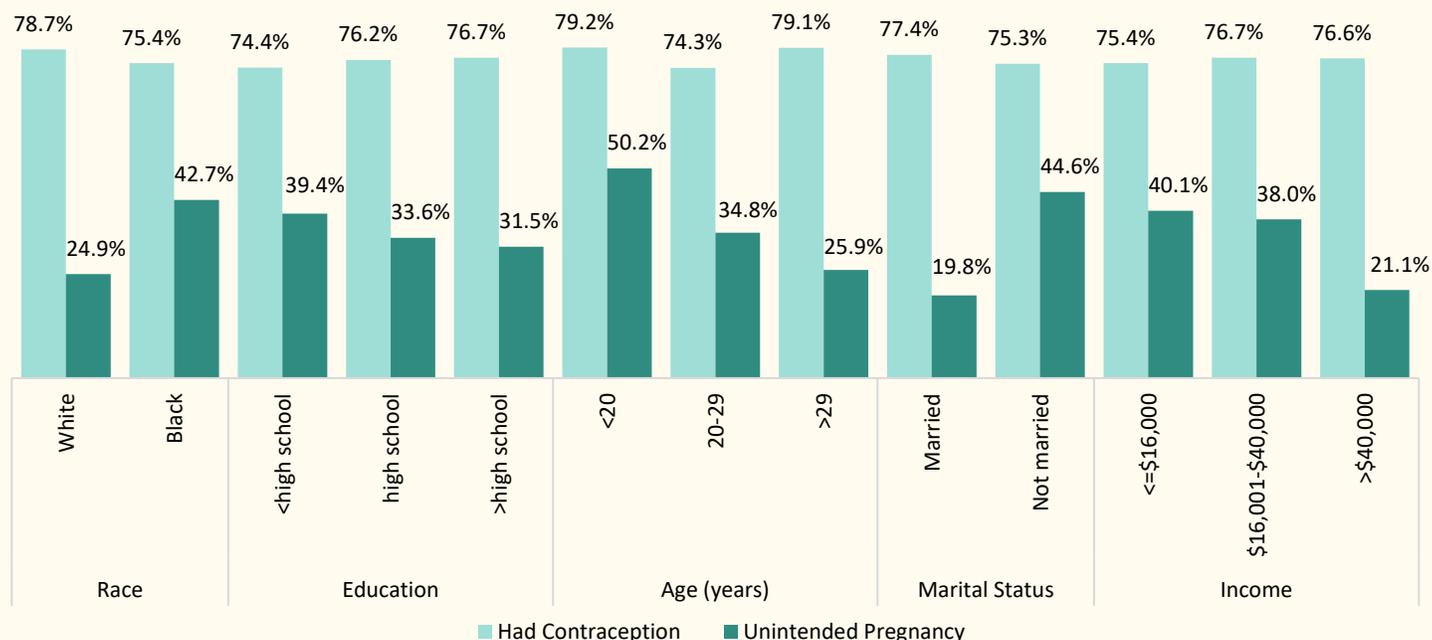
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- **Condoms (32.7%), withdrawal (28.6%), and birth control pills (27.2%)** were the 3 most frequently reported methods of postpartum contraception among women. (Figure 3)
- The percentage of postpartum contraception use was not **significantly associated with** demographic characteristics.(Figure 4)
- The percentage of unintended pregnancy was **significantly higher** among **Black women (42.7%)**, women with **less than a high school education (39.4%)**, women who were **younger than 20 years old (50.2%)**, women who were **not married (44.6%)**, and women whose annual household income was **\$16,000 or less (40.1%)**. (Figure 4)

**Figure 3. Percentage of Postpartum Contraceptive Method Use, MS, 2021**



**Figure 4. Percentage of Postpartum Contraception Use and Pregnancy Intention by Demographic Characteristics, MS, 2021**



## References

- 1) Troutman, M., Rafique, S. & Plowden, T.C. Are higher unintended pregnancy rates among minorities a result of disparate access to contraception?. *Contracept Reprod Med* 5, 16 (2020).
- 2) Aztlán-James EA, McLemore M, Taylor D. Multiple Unintended Pregnancies in U.S. Women: A Systematic Review. *Womens Health Issues*. 2017 Jul-Aug;27(4):407-413.

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